

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 220704Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6647
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 8206

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA, IR, MU, YS
SUBJECT: SAUDI MEDIATION IN PDRY RELEASE OF IRANIAN PILOT

1. THE KINGDOM'S MEDIA HAVE HAILED THE RELEASE OF THE DOWNED IRANIAN PILOT AND SALVAGE OF THE F4 WRECKAGE AS A DIPLOMATIC COUP. HEADLINES BANNERED THE MEDIATION'S SUCCESS AS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF THE KINGDOM'S SOLICITUDE TOWARDS ACHIEVING REGIONAL SOLIDARITY AMONG MUSLIM BROTHER NATIONS. DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT WERE GIVEN AS FOLLOWS: FIRST: THE PDRY GOVERNMENT HANDED OVER THE PILOT DEC. 20 TO THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AND, SECOND, A SAUDI TEAM OF EXPERTS WILL SALVAGE THE WRECKAGE OF THE IRANIAN PLANE.

2. COMMENT: THE SAG APPEARS TO DERIVE SATISFACTION FROM SUCCESSFULLY PLAYING THE ROLE OF IMPARTIAL MEDIATOR BETWEEN QUARRELING STATES IN THE REGION. CROWN PRINCE FAHD HAS PERSONALLY BEEN CULTIVATING THE IMAGE OF PEACEMAKER. THE PROMINENCE OF CROWN PRINCE'S PHOTOS IN THE PAPERS ACCOMPANYING THE STORY HIGHLIGHT HIS ROLE IN THE AFFAIR. THE SAG MAY ALSO WANT TO DEMONSTRATE THE CORRECTNESS OF ITS OPENING
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TO THE PDRY: THAT SECURITY IN THE PENINSULA CAN BE ENHANCED BY CORRECT, IF NOT WARM, RELATIONS WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORING STATES.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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